



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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City of Falls Church Law Enforcement Encourages Motorists to *Click It or Ticket*

The Falls Church Police Department and Sheriff's Office are joining Virginia law enforcement in the national *Click It or Ticket* mobilization during May. The *Click It or Ticket* program focuses on increasing seat belt and child safety seat use in an effort to save more lives on Virginia's roadways. Law enforcement from around Virginia will participate in high visibility patrols through the Memorial Day holiday. Some motorists who don't "click" their seatbelts may get a ticket.

In the City of Falls Church, the Police Department and Sheriff's Office will set up special checkpoints and other law enforcement activities along Broad Street (Route 7) from May 18-31 to enforce traffic laws in advance of the heavily traveled Memorial Day weekend.

Virginia law states that law enforcement can cite anyone driving a vehicle in which an occupant under the age of 16 is not wearing a seat belt or is not properly secured in a child safety seat. Further, the law also provides that drivers stopped for other violations can be cited if they are not buckled up. This also applies to all front seat passengers over the age of 16.

According to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Office, there were 821 traffic fatalities in Virginia in 2008. Of those, 612 fatalities occurred in vehicles that were equipped with safety restraints; 54 percent of those 612 fatalities were people not wearing restraints.

"There are still too many people dying or being injured as a result of not buckling up. Virginia experienced the highest number of fatalities that we have seen in a decade and that has to stop," said Deputy Chief of Police Major Mary Gavin. "That's why this May and throughout the year, we are increasing enforcement to continue to impress upon all citizens that seat belt use is a must when getting into any vehicle. Regular use of seat belts saves lives. Unfortunately, too many people still need a tough reminder that wearing a seat belt is the absolute best way to protect them in a crash. Falls Church has zero tolerance when it comes to not buckling up."

Click It or Ticket is one of several programs under the Smart, Safe and Sober Partnership. Smart, Safe and Sober is a statewide initiative dedicated to preventing crashes, injuries and fatalities on Virginia roadways. It is a joint partnership of the City of Falls Church DMV: The Virginia Highway Safety Office, the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Virginia Sheriff's Association, and Drive Smart Virginia

For more information, visit www.dmvnow.com/highwaysafety.

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